

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 07505 181027Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 180945Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2896

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 7505

EXDIS

FOR LEGAL ADVISOR FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA,MARR,ID,VS

SUBJECT: ALDRICH TRAVEL

REFS: A. JAKARTA 7352 B. STATE 126554 C. JAKARTA 6424

SUMMARY: FONDEPT ASIA PACIFIC CHIEF ADENAN JUNE 18 REITERATED IMPORTANCE OF ALDRICH'S VISITING INDONESIA, SUGGESTING VISIT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL AT TIME FONMIN MALIK IN JAKARTA. ADENAN STATED CONTINUATION OF ICCS, AND INDONESIA'S PARTICIPATION THEREIN IS IN INDONESIA'S OWN NATIONAL INTEREST DESPITE CONTINUING FRUSTRATIONS. HE IMPLIED THAT FONDEPT PARTICULARLY WELCOMES ASSISTANCE ALDRICH CAN GIVE IN PERSUADING MILITARY THAT INDONESIA SHOULD CONTINUE IN ITS ICCS ROLE. END SUMMARY

1. IN CALL ON FONDEPT ASIA PACIFIC DIRECTOR BGEN ADENANA (WHO "PROJECT OFFICER FOR ALDRICH VISIT" -- REF A) JUNE 18, I EXPLAINED REASON FOR POSTPONEMENT OF ALDRICH VISIT (REF B), STATED THAT HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT, OTHER COMMITMENTS PERMITTING, ALDRICH COME JUNE 28 WHEN FONMIN MALIK WOULD BE IN TOWN (REF A), AND ASKED ADENAN'S ADVICE AS TO SUITABLE DATE IN FUTURE IF JUNE 28 PROVES INFEASIBLE. ADENAN REPLIED THAT SINCE IT WOULD BE MOST CONFIDENTIAL

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USEFUL FOR ALDRICH TO MEET WITH MALIK, NEXT PROPITIOUS

TIME FRAME WOULD BE SHORTLY AFTER JULY 23 OR 24 RETURN OF FONMIN FROM EAST EUROPEAN TRIP. ADENAN REITERATED THAT ALDRICH SHOULD BRIEF TOP OFFICIALS OF BOTH DEFENSE AND FOREIGN DEPARTMENTS, AND THUS SHOULD ALLOW FOR TWO DAYS IN JAKARTA. I NOTED SUBJECTS WHICH WE HAD SUGGESTED ALDRICH COVER, DRAWING FROM PARA 5 REF C, AND ASKED ADENAN FOR ANY ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS. ADENAN INDICATED OUR SUGGESTIONS APPROPRIATE. I PROMISED TO KEEP ALDRICH INFORMED OF ALDRICH'S PLANS.

2. TURNING TO ICCS, ADENAN (WHO HAS AT TIMES BEEN RUMORED TO BE AMONG THOSE WHO FAVORED INDONESIA'S WITHDRAWING) STATED THAT INDONESIA HAS CLEAR INTEREST IN REMAINING SINCE WHAT HAPPENS IN VIET NAM -- "A NEIGHBOR" HAS SECURITY IMPLICATIONS FOR INDONESIA ITSELF, AND THAT INDONESIA WILL STAY ON IF ALL THE PARTIES WANT HER. HE STRESSED -- AS DO ALL SENIOR GOI OFFICIALS -- THE FRUSTRATIONS INVOLVED, STATING THAT UNCOOPERATIVENESS OF PRG -- AND AT TIMES GVN -- MAKES LIFE VERY DIFFICULT FOR INDONESIAN CONTINGENT AND DOES NOT HELP GOI'S RELATIONS WITH NVN WHICH IS CONSTANTLY ATTACKING THEM. UNPLEASANT AMBIANCE MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO GET INDONESIANS -- BOTH MILITARY AND 18 DIPLOMATS -- TO SERVE WILLINGLY IN ICCS, AND NEED FOR ENGLISH COMPOUNDS PROBLEM IN CASE OF MORE JUNIOR MILITARY. SPEAKING PRIVATELY, ADENAN CONTINUED, HE CONCERNED THAT IF ICCS FUNDING PROBLEMS (NOTE PARA 6 REF C) SHOULD BECOME SO ACUTE AS TO REQUIRE REDUCTION IN ALLOWANCES FOR ICCS CONTINGENT MEMBERS, GOI MIGHT HAVE TO CONSIDER REDUCING SIZE ITS CONTINGENT ALTHOUGH THIS COULD NECESSITATE WITHDRAWING FROM CERTAIN SITES, WHICH HE WOULD NOT FAVOR.

3. I TOOK OCCASION ONCE AGAIN TO STRESS OUR BELIEF THAT, DESPITE FRUSTRATIONS, ICCS IS PERFORMING USEFUL FUNCTION IN STABILIZING SITUATION IN VIET NAM AND THAT INDONESIA'S ROLE IN ICCS IS AN IMPORTANT ONE. ADENAN AGREED AND REITERATED THAT ALDRICH VISIT PARTICULARLY WELCOMED FOR OPPORTUNITY IT GIVES SENIOR LEVELS OF GOI TO LEARN OUR VIEWS AND ESTIMATES OF VIET NAM AND ICCS.

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4. COMMENT: TONE OF ADENAN'S COMMENTS INDICATED THAT FONDEPT UNDER MALIK IS CONVINCED OF IMPORTANCE OF INDONESIA'S REMAINING IN ICCS AND PARTICULARLY WELCOMES SUPPORT ALDRICH VISIT CAN GIVE TO THIS POSITION VIS A VIS MILITARY, SOME OF WHOM, BY IMPLICATION, ARE STILL DOUBTFUL ABOUT VALUE OF ICCS PARTICIPATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, PERSONNEL TRAVEL, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JAKART07505
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740158-0432
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740636/aaaabfar.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A. JAKARTA 7352 B. STATE 126554 C. J, AKARTA 6424
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALDRICH TRAVEL
TAGS: OTRA, MARR, ID, VS, ICCS, (MALIK), (ALDRICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005